

secure2sign and Digital Certificates

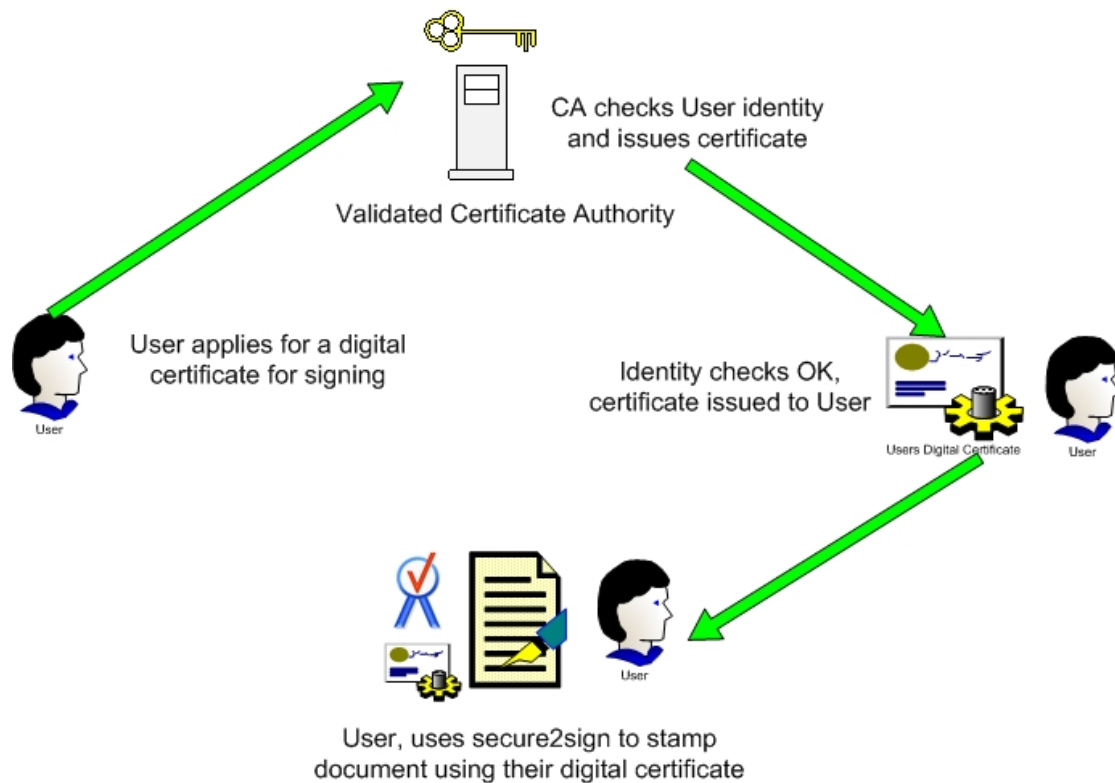
Digital certificates are used as a mechanism to securely identify a person in the context of a computerised process, for example, to ensure a person is who they say they are, during an electronic transaction.

To ensure that this mechanism is secure and has legal weight, the issuing of a digital certificate needs to be carried out by a trusted and verifiable third party known as a Certificate Authority (CA). This party is set up to guarantee the validity of the information in the certificate, *i.e.* the person's identity that the certificate has been issued to is genuine. This ensures that the person is who they say they are, when using the certificate during an electronic process.

The issuing of digital certificates is a highly controlled mechanism and it is important that you choose a CA who meets the regulations (see link below).

secure2sign is an application that uses the information in a digital certificate to stamp the identity of a person onto a document that they are involved in collaborating on, have created, *etc.* For example, a Word based e-invoice form can be filled in by a person and once completed, signed by that person using their digital certificate to identify them. Once the signature is applied to the document it will carry legal weight to associate that person with the completed form. In addition, secure2sign will show if the form has been altered since it was signed, so that both the form filler and the form issuer can be assured that no alternations to the form have been made.

In this way, secure2sign and digital certificates can be used to securely identify and associate a given person with an electronic transaction as well as audit any changes made to the document during that transaction.



Useful Links

Regulation information on certificate authorities:

<http://www.digisigtrust.com/certificates/policy/tsindex.html>

Microsoft have an online guide to using digital certificates that can be found at:

http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/exchange/Guides/E2k3Ms_gSecGuide/b26b91d9-d569-4d1f-914f-2d7027e2cb16.msp?mfr=true

Validated CA's:

IdenTrust: www.identrust.com

Verisign: www.verisign.com

Thawte: www.thawte.com

 info@avocosecure.com

US: +1 415 839 9433

International: +44 207 851 6070

www.avocosecure.com



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